

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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P R 261520Z NOV 75

FM AMEMASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1393

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1178

US DEL MTN GENEVA 0679

ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRA,MX

SUBJECT: GSP AND MEXICO

REF: A. STATE 277515, B. STATE 273999, C. STATE 277516

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN OFFICE AND TREASURY WERE BRIEFED BY EMBOFFS NOV. 25 ON PRESIDENT'S AUTHORIZATION IMPLEMENTATION GSP AND WHAT IT MEANS TO MEXICO AND LDCS. MEMORANDUM WAS DELIVERED STRESSING BENEFITS AND NEW TRADE OPPORTUNITIES OPENED UP BY GSP. MEXICAN REACTION WAS GUARDED, AND REFLECTED MEXICAN APPREHENSIONS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. EMBASSY ALSO BRIEFING HOST COUNTRY MEDIA. END SUMMARY

2. EMBASSY ECON COUNSELOR AND ECONOFF CALLED NOV. 25 ON AMB. MARIO ESPINOSA DE LOS REYES, DIRECTOR IN CHIEF OF FOREIGN OFFICE, TO BRIEF HIM ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS GSP AND TO LEAVE MEMORANDUM OUTLINING BENEFITS FOR MEXICO AND
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LDCS IN GENERAL. LATER EMBOFFS CALLED ON ABEL

GARRIDO, INTL ECON AFFAIRS, TREASURY, FOR INFORMAL BRIEFING AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

3. REACTION OF MEXICAN OFFICIALS WAS GUARDED, AND BOTH FOREIGN OFFICE AND TREASURY PROMISED TO STUDY GSP LIST CAREFULLY. AMB. ESPINOSA HAD MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EMBOFFS' CALL, AND PROMISED TO BRING MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION. HE ALSO TOOK EXTRA COPY FOR UNDER SECRETARY ELISEO MENDOZA BERRUETO OF SECRETARIAT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, WHOM HE WAS SEEING EVENING NOV. 25 IN CONNECTION WITH NEW YORK TRIP(SEPTEL). FOR HIS PART, GARRIDO TOOK MEMORANDUM (COPY BEING POUCHED ARA/MEX) AND SAID HE WOULD DISTRIBUTE IT TO INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN TRADE, AND WOULD DRAW ON IT IN PREPARING PUBLIC REMARKS SECRETARY OF TREASURY MARIO RAMON BETETA. GARRIDO INDICATED THAT DEFINITIVE MEXICAN COMMENT COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL ENTIRE LIST SUBJECTED TO STATISTICAL ANALYSIS. HE NOTED THAT GSP WAS COMING FOUR YEARS AFTER IT WAS PROMISED, AND WAS NOT AS COMPLETE AS HAD BEEN HOPED. HE ALSO REFERRED TO MEXICAN APPREHENSIONS REGARDING ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTIONS.

4. COMMENT: MEXICAN REACTION TO GSP APPEARS RESERVED AT BEST. GOM OFFICIALS MOST RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE PUBLICLY BENEFITS TO MEXICO OF GSP AND MEXICAN PRESS TAKES ITS CUE FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES. HOWEVER, EMBASSY IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO POINT OUT BENEFITS, BOTH THROUGH ACTIVE MEDIA PROGRAM, AND EXPANDED SERIES OF CALLS ON APPROPRIATE PERSONS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. CALDERHEAD

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